

REMARKS

All amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits.

Applicant reserves the right to subsequently take up prosecution on the claims as originally filed in this or appropriate continuation, continuation-in-part and/or divisional applications.

Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments above be entered and submits that these amendments will put the claims in condition for allowance or better form for appeal. Antecedent basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification.

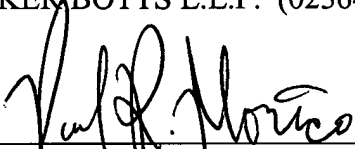
SUMMARY

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile or electronic mail, as below.

Applicant believes that there are no fees due in association with this filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, including fees for any extensions of time, Applicant respectfully requests that the Commissioner accept this a Petition Therefor, and directs that any fees due be debited from Baker Botts L.L.P. **Deposit Account No. 02-0383, Order Number 069208.0113.**

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. (023640)

By: 

Paul R. Morico

Reg. No. 35,960

One Shell Plaza

910 Louisiana Street

Houston, Texas 77002-4995

Telephone: 713.229.1732

Facsimile: 713.229.7732

Email: Paul.Morico@bakerbotts.com

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

DATE: March 5, 2004